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IBM Docket No. FR9-1999-0106 US1

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office Patent Application Transmittal

Transmitted herewith for filing is the Patent Application of:

Inventors(s): Alain Benayoun, Patrick Michel, Jean-Francois Le Pennec, Claude Pin

For: System For Transferring Data Files Between a User Workstation and Web Server

Enclosed are

18 pages of specification, including 8 claims, plus 5 sheets of drawings.

An assignment of the invention to International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, New York 10504.

A certified copy of a/an European application.

Declaration and Power of Attorney.

PTO-1449 & references

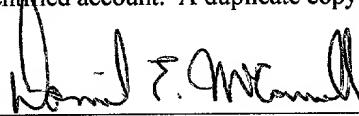
A return post card

Other:

Filing Fee Calculation (For Other Than Small Entity)

Basic Fee:					\$690.00
Claims Fees:	Filed	Limit	Extra	Rate per Extra	
Total claims:	18	20	0	\$18.00	\$0.00
Independent claims:	2	3	0	\$78.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claim Presented				\$260.00	\$0.00
				Total	\$690.00

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BY: 

Daniel E. McConnell

Attorney of Record Reg. No. 20,360

Date: Sept. 12, 2000

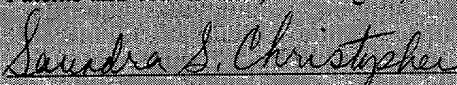
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SYSTEM FOR TRANSFERRING DATA FILES BETWEEN A USER WORKSTATION AND WEB SERVER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field:

The present invention relates to file transfer applications between a user workstation and a web server wherein the workstation is connected to the web through a Local Area Network (LAN) or a Wide Area Network (WAN), and relates particularly to a system for transferring data files between a user workstation and a web server.

2. Background:

The transfer of data files between a web server and a user workstation is done using applications such as a web browser or a file transfer user software. Such a software involves a transfer protocol such as Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) used when the web browser transfers data files from remote web servers to graphically display the web contents on the monitor of the workstation.

Although HTTP is adapted for downloading HTML files and the small bit maps displayed with them, it is not designed for transferring large data files. However, another protocol File Transfer Protocol (FTP) can download large files and resume transfer after interruptions. Insofar as transferring files via e-mail attachments is inefficient or impractical when dealing with large documents, FTP is the only open standard solution for efficiently posting new HTML pages onto a web site or sharing graphics laden files.

Many TCP/IP applications can run over Internet, most of them being user server applications. As each connection request is received, a user workstation process and a server process start. There may be several processes running simultaneously on both user workstation and server. To facilitate this process, each application (FTP for example) is assigned a unique address called a port. The related application is bound to this particular port. There are thousands of ports on a server or a user workstation that can be used. A standard port assignment is defined as a framework. For example FTP uses TCP port 21 and HTTP uses TCP port 80. Other values may be used for these applications when necessary.

Today, growing numbers of power users, telecommuters, and corporate Internet managers are unleashing the protocol's potential by using FTP users (file transfer software applications designed for users) to minimize time spent online. In fact, for anyone that even touches the Internet, "FTP user" should be spoken in the same breath as "e-mail" and "browser" when describing efficient desktop needs.

Web browsing or other internal applications are very often used when download of file is running and has impact on the performance of both the application and the file transfer and introduces delay and sometimes error. The main reason is that some resources are shared as the file transfer uses a lot of the internal hardware and software resources.

Therefore, there is a need to reduce the number of hardware and software resources located in the main processing system involved normally in the file download mechanism in order to improve the performance of both the

file transfer and the other tasks running in the station.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the main object of the invention is to provide a system for connecting directly the network of a user workstation to the workstation hard disk and bypassing the main system bus, the main memory and the main processor in order to achieve a faster data file transfer and let other tasks run in the main processor to take advantages of all available resources.

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The invention relates therefore to a system for downloading a data file from a web server to a user workstation through a network to which is connected the user workstation, this one including a hard disk for storing the data file being transferred over a SCSI bus. The user workstation includes a dual-port memory for storing temporarily the data file, a network logic unit interconnected between the network and the input port of the dual-port memory for receiving the data file from the network and transmitting it to the dual-port memory, and a SCSI logic unit interconnected between the output port of the dual-port memory and the SCSI bus for transferring the data file from the dual-port memory to the hard disk over the SCSI bus.

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The invention relates also to a system for downloading a data file from a web server to a user workstation through a network to which is connected the user workstation, this one including a hard disk for storing the data file being transferred over a SCSI bus. The user workstation includes a dual-port memory for storing temporarily the data file, a network logic unit interconnected between the network and the input port of the dual-port memory for receiving the data file from the

network and transmitting it to the dual-port memory, and a SCSI logic unit interconnected between the output-port of the dual-port memory and the SCSI bus for transferring the data file from the dual-port memory to the hard disk over the SCSI bus.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 The above and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will be better understood by reading the following more particular description of the invention in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein :

10 **Figure 1** is a schematic block-diagram representing the environment wherein a user workstation connects to a network by using a system according to the invention.

Figure 2 is a block diagram representing the hardware components in a user workstation of the prior art.

Figure 3 is a block diagram representing the hardware components in a user workstation according to the invention.

Figure 4 is a detailed block diagram of the user workstation according to the invention illustrated in **Fig. 3**.

25 **Figure 5** is the software architecture of the user workstation according to the invention.

.30 **Figure 6** represents the different software layers in an FTP user/web server application.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The hardware architecture of a current user workstation is given in **Fig. 2**. With the current user workstation hardware design, the file transfer uses the following hardware components : a LAN (or WAN) adapter **201**, a workstation main memory **202**, a system bus **203**, a SCSI master device adapter **204**, a hard disk **205**, a processor **206**, a system bus arbiter **207**, and the following software resources, a LAN adapter device driver, a SCSI adapter device driver, a user interface, an Operating System Stack IP and a file transfer protocol such as FTP are run by processor **206**.

As a minimum the user workstation **10** is made of the processor **206**, the main memory **202**, the LAN adapter **201** and the SCSI adapter **204**, all of them communicating through a common system bus **203**. Therefore, the arbiter **207** is required to manage the bus allocation. The hard disk **205** is connected to the SCSI adapter **204** through an external SCSI bus **208**. The SCSI adapter and bus may be easily replaced by another bus and drives technology such as IDE.

For a download file transfer the following operations take place:

once the connection is established, the file is received by the LAN adapter which transfers the data by bursts to the main memory through the system bus
each burst is transferred from the main memory to the SCSI adapter through the system bus
the SCSI adapter stores each burst in the hard

disk through the SCSI bus

these operations are repeated until the file is received.

5 It should be noted that each data transfer is controlled by the file transfer protocol run by the processor. From a hardware standpoint, the data transfers go through the main memory and the system bus. Therefore, during each data transfer, the processor stops 10 its activity which degrades the performance of the user workstation.

Fig. 3 describes the new architecture of the user workstation according to the invention. It is based on a new LAN adapter **301** which implements a LAN logic unit **302**, a SCSI controller **303**, a dual-port memory **304**, a system bus interface logic **305** and a microcontroller **306**. A user workstation SCSI bus **208** connects a native SCSI adapter **204** and SCSI logic unit **303** to the hard disk **205**.

25 It is assumed that TCP/IP is the standard protocol used in network operations. The type of operation to be performed is located in the so-called 'Port number' identifying the file transfer protocol to be used. The port scanning function only selects packets with the port number corresponding to the protocol handled by microcontroller **306**. There is only one port assigned to an application at a time so this filtering 30 allows to decide whether this packet is handled by micro-controller **306** and the local IP Stack implemented in the LAN adapter or by processor **(206)** and the main IP stack controlled by the Operating System. A further test

which may be performed to avoid errors or bad frames is to check both Source and Destination IP address fields to verify that the frame belongs to a known flow and of course the sequence number to validate that the frame is the expected frame. These tests can be performed by microcontroller **306**. The port scanning function analyses the port number and decides when to perform a file transfer operation. Depending on the port assignment, this file transfer takes place either through the system bus/main memory **203** or locally through the dual-port memory **304**. In the latter case, the file transfer operations do not use anymore the main memory and the system bus, which improves the performance of the workstation. This new architecture is therefore open to any type of applications.

In the preferred embodiment, when the user requests the LAN adapter to handle a direct file transfer to memory, it first gives for download the flow identification to process locally. The identification may be the address source and destination and the port number which indicates also which transfer protocol is used. The micro-controller **306** is then able to detect such incoming flow (in case of download) on the LAN controller **302**. The data packets are sent to the dual-port memory **304** on one port. The data stored in memory are, thanks to the SCSI controller **303**, transferred from the other port of dual-port memory **304** to the hard disk (**205**) via SCSI BUS **208**. The control packets for that flow are managed locally by micro-controller **306**.

The upload mechanism is more simple since the user can just give the file location in memory and the

destination for the file with a file transfer protocol to use. Micro-controller 306 initializes a file transfer session with the remote location, takes the file from hard disk 205 and puts it in dual-port memory 304 through SCSI BUS 208 and SCSI controller (303). This loading may be done packet by packet depending on the file size. This file splitted into packets is then sent from dual-port memory 304 to the LAN via LAN controller (302). All the data and control processes are managed by micro-controller 306.

It should be noted that the present invention applies to any type of file transfer protocols. As an example, the following protocols can be supported : File Transfer Protocol (FTP), Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP), Network File Server (NFS), Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP).

Fig. 4 is a block diagram representing the hardware architecture of the LAN adapter used in the system according to the invention. Microcontroller 306 is the heart of the adapter. Its internal ROM stores the operation code where resides the port scanning routine and a file transfer protocol.

The system bus logic is made of an adapter connector 420 which allows the connection of the adapter within the workstation and carries the following hardware signals: data bus, address bus, control signals (read, write, byte enables), bus request, bus grant, interruptions, and a system bus interface VLSI 410 which implements the following functions: bus protocol adaptation, bus timing adaptation, address translation, a

transmit FIFO to exchange data from the adapter to the main memory, a receive FIFO to exchange data from the main memory to the adapter and a mailbox to allow the communication between the processor and microcontroller 5 306.

LAN logic unit 302 of Fig. 3 is made of a LAN connector 402, an analog interface 412, a LAN controller 422, a buffer 450 to access local bus 401, a buffer 430 connected to port L of the dual-port memory 304 and an address decoder 440 which controls the operation of the 10 buffers.

SCSI logic unit 303 of Fig.3 is made of a SCSI connector 403, an analog interface 413, a SCSI controller 423 and a buffer 431 to access local bus 401. SCSI controller 423 and buffer 431 are connected to port R of dual port memory 304. In the preferred embodiment, the SCSI controller 423 of the LAN adapter is a master device on the SCSI bus such as the one located in the SCSI main adapter of the workstation. The two SCSI master devices share the SCSI bus and slaves devices (Hard disk) using known bus arbitration method. There is no performance impact in this architecture as the throughput of current SCSI bus is very high compared to the file transfer 25 throughput.

Chip select logic decoder 432 decodes the address present onto local bus (401). Therefore, both microcontroller 306 and the processor of the workstation can access the peripheral devices. Four chip select signals are generated: the LAN_controller chip select, the

SCSI_controller chip select, the memory_right_port chip select and the memory_left_port chip select.

Address decoder **440** generates the control signals for the buffers, the controllers, the dual-port static memory and the system bus interface. Depending on a slave or master access, the following components are enabled :

- Buffer **450** and LAN controller **422** are enabled when the address is in the LAN controller slave access area,
- Buffer **450**, buffer **440** and left-port static memory **304** are enabled when the address is in the left-port static memory slave access area,
- Buffer **431** and right-port static memory **304** are enabled when the address is in the right-port static memory slave access area,
- Buffer **431** and SCSI controller **423** are enabled when the address is in the SCSI controller slave access area,
- Buffer **430** and left-port static memory **304** are enabled when the address is in the LAN controller master access to dual-port memory area,
- Buffer **450** and system bus VLSI **410** are enabled when the address is in the LAN controller master access to main memory area,
- Right-port static memory **304** is enabled when the address is in the SCSI controller master access to dual-port memory area.

It must be noted that the memory map of microcontroller **306** is composed of 9 address ranges relative to the following component wherein each address range is considered as either slave when microcontroller drives

the address out local bus **401** or master when the peripheral device (LAN or SCSI controller) drives the bus: the internal ROS as a slave access, the LAN controller as a slave access, the left-port static memory as a slave, the right-port static memory as a slave, the SCSI controller as a slave, the LAN controller as a master to dual-port memory, (this address range is used by the LAN controller to transfer data to/from the left-port static memory), the LAN controller as a master to main memory, (this address range is used by the LAN controller to transfer data to/from the main memory), the SCSI controller as a master (this address range is used by the SCSI controller to transfer data to/from the right-port static memory), and the internal RAM as a slave.

As illustrated in **Fig. 5**, processor **206** runs the following layers: a user interface **501**, an application able to activate file transfer **502**, a TCP/IP stack **503**, a Data Transfer Protocol such as DTP **504**, a LAN adapter device driver **505** (this software tasks allow the main processor **206** to communicate with the microcontroller **306**), and a SCSI adapter device driver **506**.

The microcontroller (**306**) of the LAN adapter runs the following layers : a communication protocol with the processor **510**, a File Transfer Protocol **511**, a Port scanning function **512**, a LAN controller device driver **513**, and a SCSI controller device driver **514**. Note that the port scanning function allows to differentiate flows that are handled by the local IP stack (including the file transfer protocol) in microcontroller **306** or flows

that are handled by the main IP stack in processor 206. A flow is characterized by at least the source and destination IP address and by the port number.

5 In reference to **Fig. 6**, the file transfer protocol of the web server/user includes two sub-layers called Data Transfer Protocol (DTP) used for managing the data transfer, and a Protocol Interpreter (PI) used as a control protocol. Therefore, the web server runs two 10 different software layers : server DTP 603, user PI 604, and a user interface 605 which allows the user 606 to activate a file transfer between the server file unit 607 and the user file unit 608.

FTP which is used in the preferred embodiment as the file transfer protocol is implemented using the TCP protocol. As shown in **Fig. 6**, FTP uses separate command and data connections. The Protocol Interpreter (PI) implements the FTP protocol itself while the Data Transfer Protocol (DTP) actually performs the data transfer. The FTP protocol and the data transfer use entirely separate TCP sessions.

25 Before any FTP application starts, microcontroller (306) initializes the LAN controller DMA with a master address to main memory. Therefore, the LAN controller communicates directly with the processor through the main memory.

30 When the user runs the FTP application (WS-FTP for Windows), the session starts with a logon procedure and then graphically represents the user and the server by two opposing tables of directories and files. To apply

FTP to a file, the user selects it and clicks the direction that he wants the file to be transferred (server to user in the example).

5 At this time, microcontroller **306** initializes the LAN controller DMA with a master address to dual-port memory **(304)**. Therefore, the LAN controller **302** will store the incoming network data locally.

10 Data connections are initialized by the server to a port of a user workstation identified in a port_command. The port scanning routine analyses the port_commands coming-in. When the file transfer port_command is detected, microcontroller **306** runs the file transfer routine between LAN controller **302** and SCSI controller **303**. LAN controller **422** stores the burst of data in dual-port memory **304** while SCSI controller **423** reads these data to write them on the hard disk through the SCSI bus. These operations take place until the entire file is received. Then, microcontroller **(306)** informs the processor which alerts the FTP application.

1 **CLAIMS:**

2 1. System for downloading a data file from a web server
3 to a user workstation through a network to which is
4 connected said user workstation, having a hard disk or
5 storing said data file being transferred over a SCSI bus;
6 said user workstation including a dual-port memory said
7 dual-port memory for storing temporarily said data file
8 having an input port and an output port, a network logic
9 unit interconnected between said network and said input
10 port for receiving said data file from said network and
11 transmitting it to said dual-port memory, and a SCSI
12 logic unit inter connected between said output-port said
13 SCSI bus for transferring said data file from said
14 dual-port memory to said hard disk over said SCSI bus.

15 2. System according to claim 1, wherein said user
16 workstation comprises a microcontroller for running the
17 file transfer routine between said network logic unit and
18 said SCSI logic unit.

19 3. System according to claim 2, wherein said user
20 workstation comprises a network controller for storing
21 bursts of said data file in said dual-port memory, and a
22 SCSI controller for reading said bursts and writing them
23 into said hard disk through said SCSI bus.

24 4. System according to claim 2, wherein said
25 microcontroller includes port scanning means for
26 determining when data are received which is the port
27 number being used and therefore the file transfer
28 protocol to be used for achieving the data file transfer.

1 5. System for uploading a data file from a user
2 workstation to a web server through a network to which is
3 connected said user workstation, having a hard disk
4 wherein is stored said data file to be transferred over a
5 SCSI bus;

6 said user workstation including a dual-port memory for
7 storing temporarily said data file, said dual-port memory
8 having an input port and an output port, a SCSI logic
9 unit connected to said SCSI bus for receiving said data
10 file from said hard disk over said SCSI bus and
11 transmitting it to said dual-port memory, and a network
12 logic unit interconnected between said network and said
13 output port for transmitting said data file onto said
14 network.

6. System according to claim 5, wherein said user
workstation comprises a microcontroller for running the
file transfer routine between said SCSI logic unit and
said network logic unit.

7. System according to claim 6, wherein said user
workstation comprises a SCSI controller for reading
bursts of said data file from said hard disk and
transferring them into said dual-port memory through said
SCSI bus and a network controller for reading said bursts
from said dual-port memory before transmitting them to
said network.

1 8. System according to claim 7, wherein said
2 microcontroller includes part scanning means for
3 determining which is the port number being used and
4 therefore the file transfer protocol to be used for
5 achieving the data file transfer when data are to be
6 transferred from said hard disk to said network.

ABSTRACT

SYSTEM FOR TRANSFERRING DATA FILES BETWEEN A USER WORKSTATION AND WEB SERVER

System for transferring a data file from a web server to a user workstation through a network and reciprocally, the user workstation including a hard disk (205) for storing the data file being transferred over a SCSI bus (208). The user workstation includes a dual-port memory (304) for storing temporarily the data file, a network logic unit (302) interconnected between the network and the input port of the dual-port memory for receiving the data file from the network and transmitting it to the dual-port memory, and a SCSI logic unit (303) interconnected between the output port of the dual-port memory and the SCSI bus for transferring the data file from the dual-port memory to the hard disk over the SCSI bus and reciprocally.

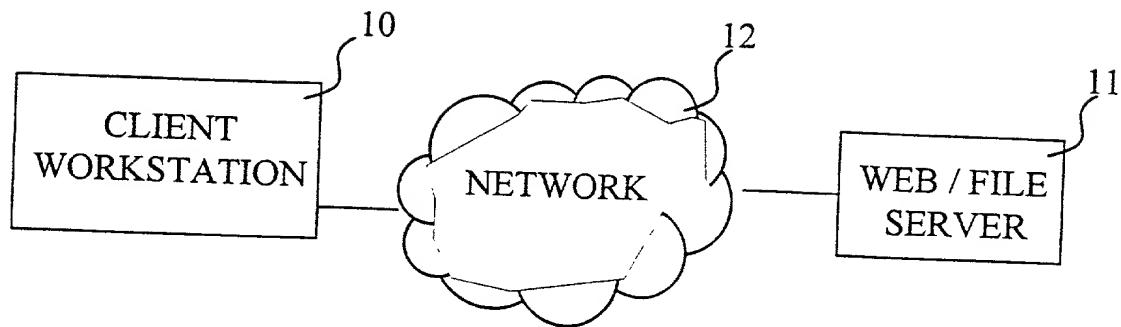


FIG. 1

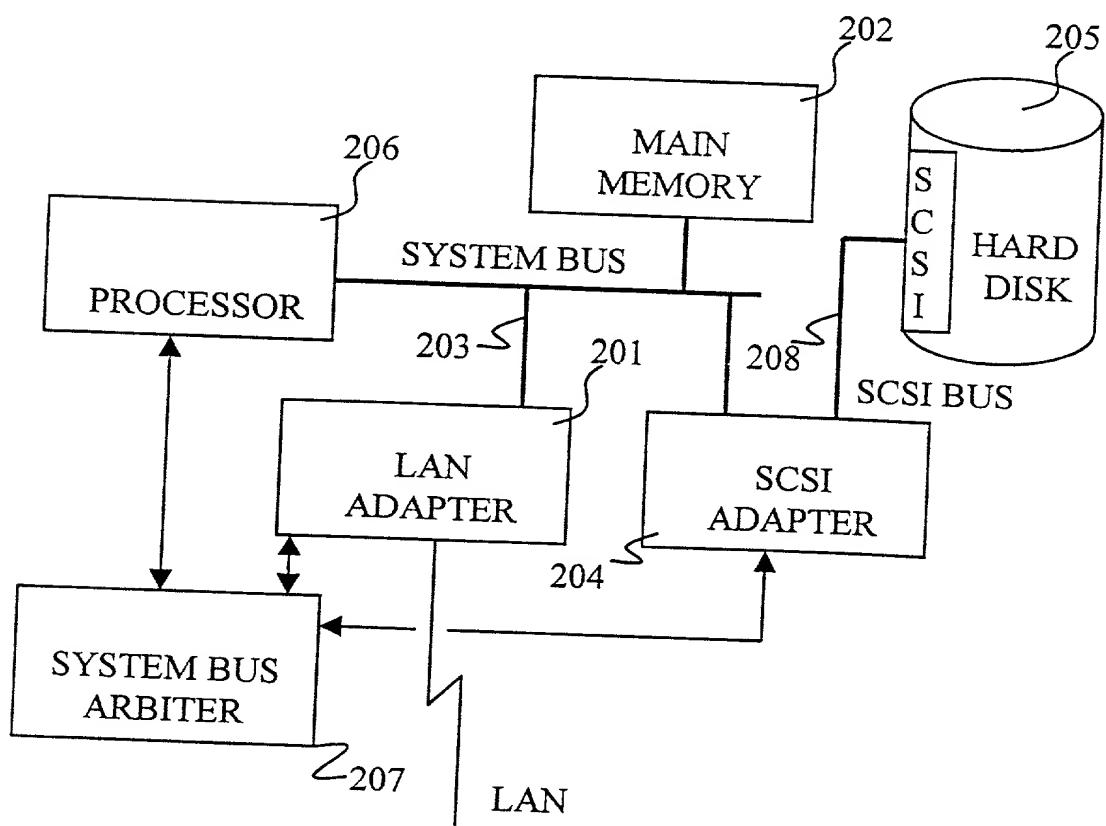


FIG. 2

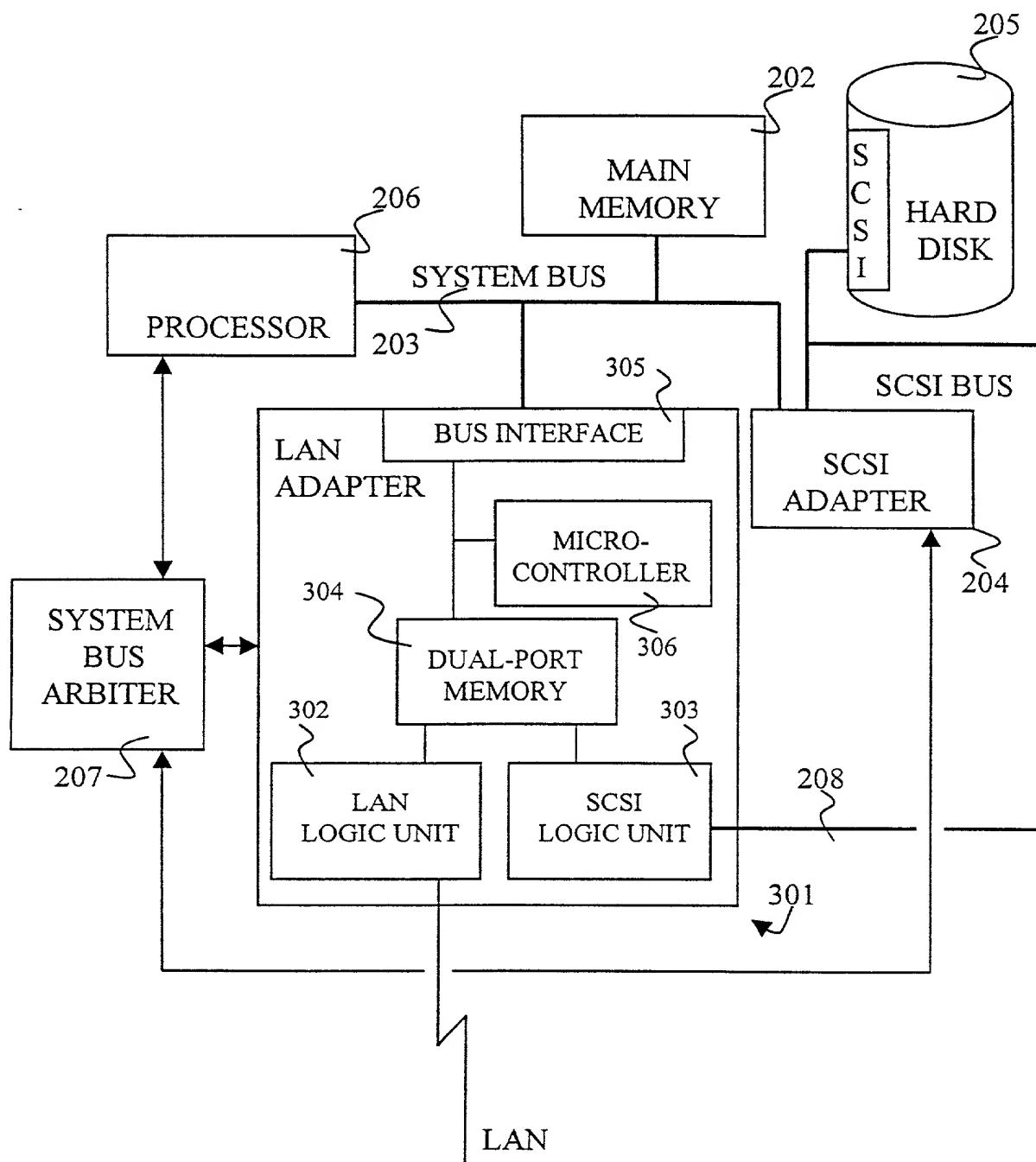


FIG. 3

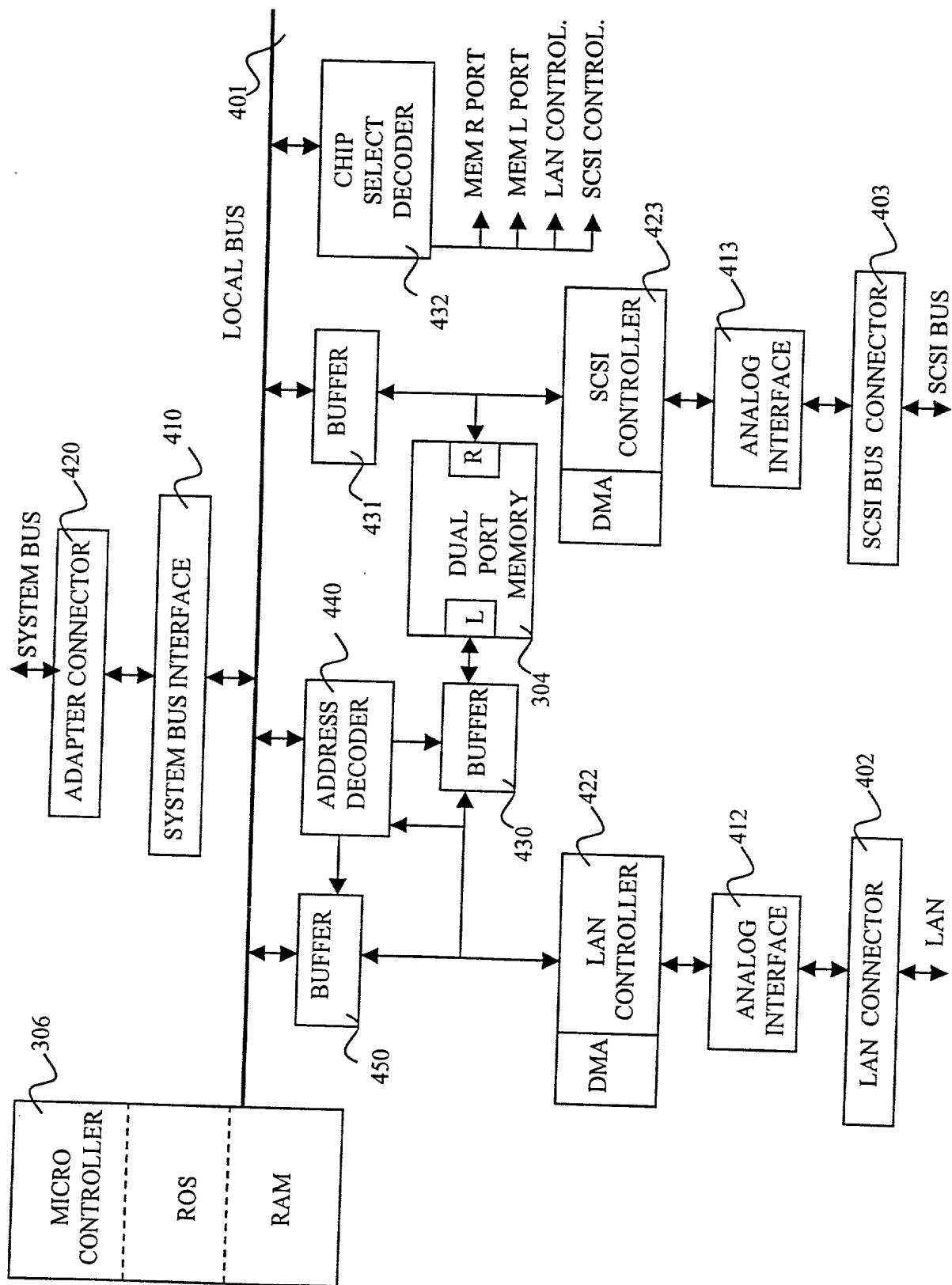


FIG. 4

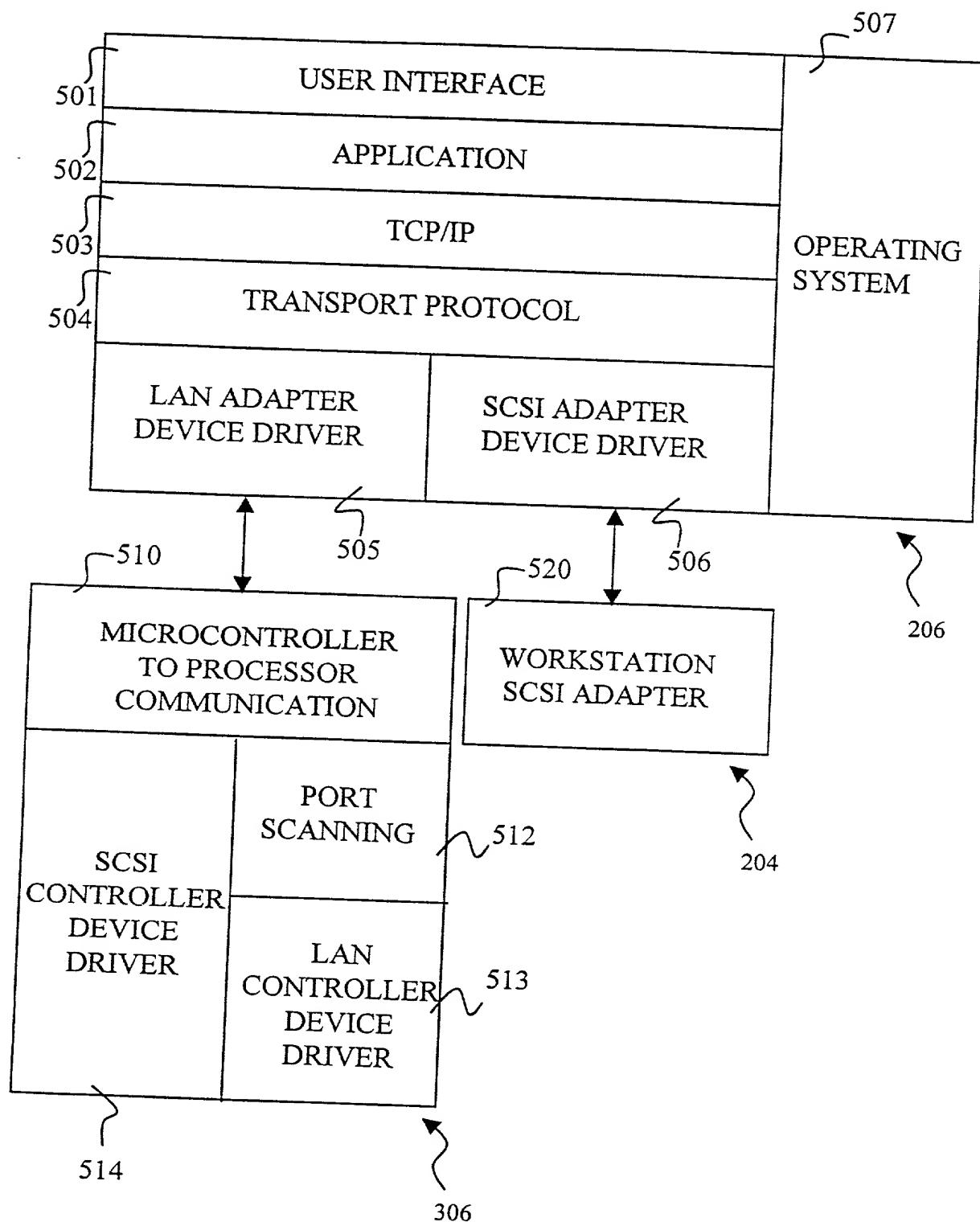


FIG. 5

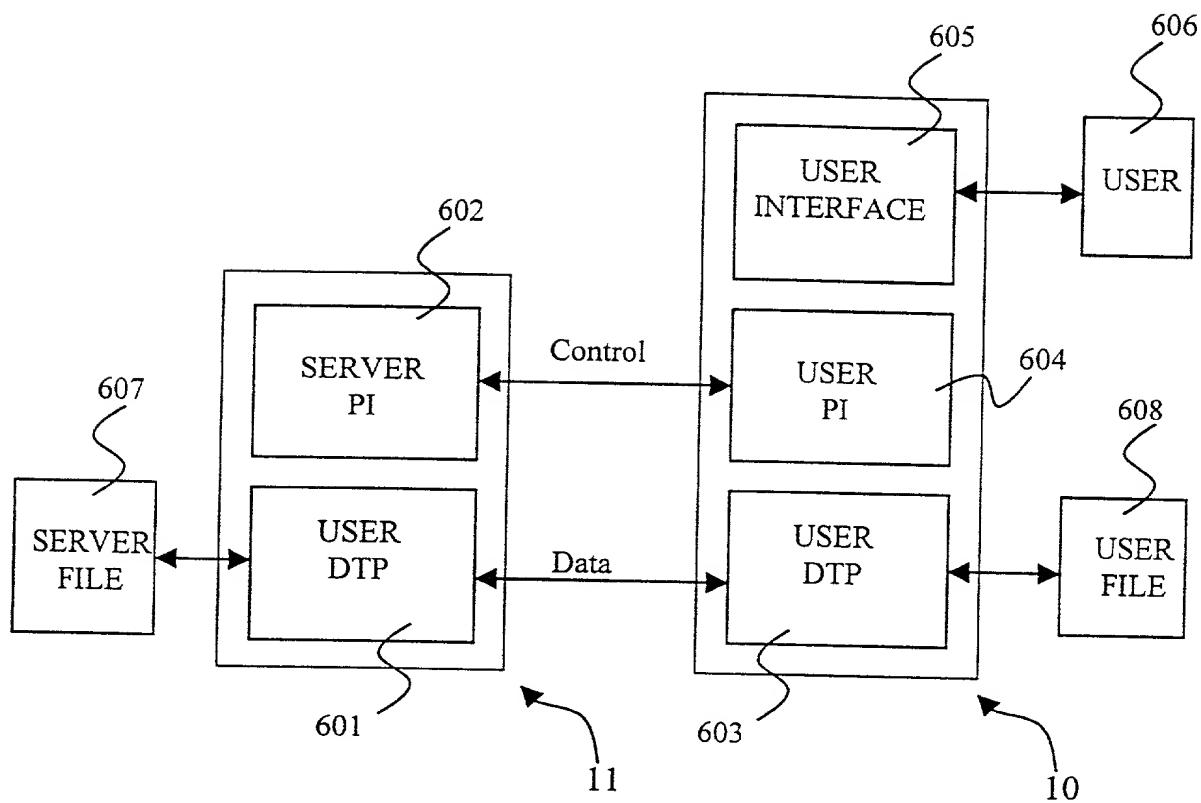


FIG. 6

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**System For Transferring Data Files Between a User Workstation and
Web Server**

the specification of which is identified by the attorney (IBM) Docket Number appearing above.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above- identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Day/Month/Year</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
00480015.7	Europe	01/12/99	Yes

I hereby claim the benefit (a) under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any U.S. application listed below and identified as a provisional application or (b) under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any U.S. application listed below and not identified as a provisional application, and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior U.S. application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to the patentability of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application

Prior U.S. Applications

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

IBM Docket No. FR9-1999-0106 US1

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Daniel E. McConnell, Reg. No. 20,360; Joscelyn G. Cockburn, Reg. No. 27,069; Horace St. Julian, Reg. No. 30,329; and Christopher A. Hughes, Reg. No. 26,914.

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